

REMARKS

This Request for Reconsideration is submitted in conjunction with a Request for Continued Examination and is in response to an outstanding Office Action (**Final Rejection**) dated May 18, 2007, the shortened **three month** statutory period for response set to expire on August 18, 2007. Accordingly, no Extension of time is believed necessary. In the event that the Commissioner determines an extension of time or fee is due, applicants hereby petition for such extension of time, and authorize the Commissioner to charge any required fee to the Milbank deposit account number 13-3250.

The undersigned wants to thank the Examiner for the time spent on July 19, 2007 in discussion of a draft amendment that was forwarded on July 13, 2007. In the event that this amendment does not place the claims in condition for allowance, then in the spirit of that discussion, the undersigned asks the Examiner to please call so as to arrange a continued discussion on the claims prior to issuance of another office action.

I. Status of the Claims

Please amend claims 49-53 and 55 as provided above. Claims 49-53 and 55 are now pending in the application. Claims 49 and 55 are independent claims.

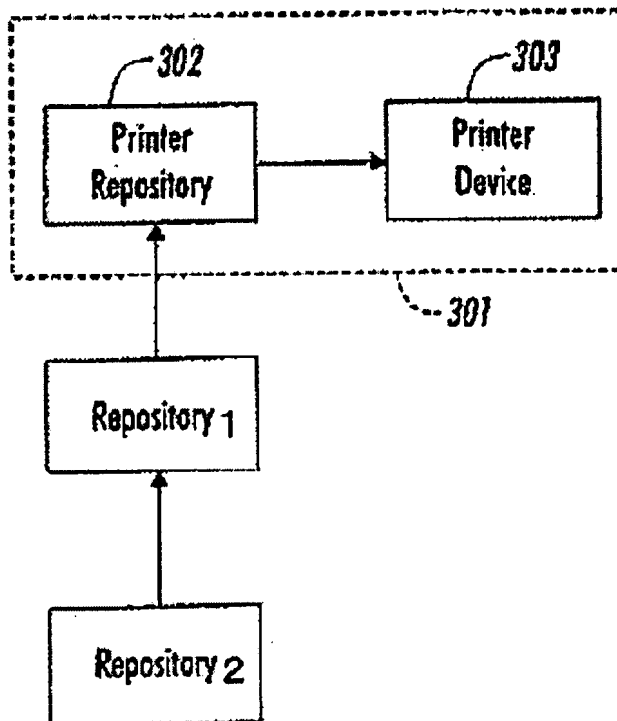
Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's citation of statutory authority as a basis for claim rejections.

II. Office Action Summary

In an Office Action mailed May 18, 2007, the Examiner has rejected pending claims 49-53 and 55. Claims 49, 50, 53, and 55 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over *Stefik* (U.S. 6,233,684) in view of *Kageyama* (U.S. 6,333,790). Claims 51 and 52 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over *Stefik* and *Kageyama* and further in view of *Rager* (U.S. 5,363,447).

Applicant has amended the claims to more clearly recite the features of the present invention and thereby distinguish the claimed invention from the cited prior art. As provided in the claims, a communication system is arranged to avoid supplying image data to a user device (e.g., 2) and instead supply the image data to a printer which can guarantee safety of the image data, to allow the printer to print the image data, thereby improving the safety of the image data. Specifically, as clearly recited in amended independent claim 49, a printer (e.g., 3) of the present invention, which is arranged to connect to a user device (e.g., 2) by first connection means and connect to a supplier device (e.g., 1) by second connection means via the Internet, connects to the user terminal by the first connection means to receive therefrom request data, connects to the supplier device via the Internet by the second connection means to notify it of the request data and a model of the printer, and then receives the image data corresponding to the request data from the supplier device when the supplier device determines that the printer can guarantee safety of the image data, to print the received image data.

The above-described feature of the present invention is not taught by each of the cited references of *Stefik*, *Kageyama* and *Rager*. The reference of *Stefik* discloses that a repository 101 transmits a copy of a digital work to a repository 102, which then establishes a safety session to a printer repository 302 in response to a request from a user and then transmits a copy of the digital work, and the printer repository 302 transmits a copy of the digital work to cause a printer apparatus 303 to print the copy of the digital work. That is, a system of the reference of *Stefik* has the configuration shown in the following figure and therefore fails to teach or suggest that a printer is arranged to connect to each of a user device and a supplier device so that image data can be supplied to the printer without passing through the user device (e.g., Fig. 1 of the present application).



(System of *Stefik*)

The reference of *Kageyama* discloses that a printer 200 is connected to a local computer 300 and is also connected to a computer 400 via a network, so that operation situation of the printer is managed. The reference of *Rager* is relied on as the prior art which only teaches to erase encryption key information from a memory with electric power of the device is turned of. None of the references of *Kateyama* and *Rager* therefore teach that a printer is arranged to connect to each of a user device and a supplier device so that image data can be supplied to the printer without passing through the user device.

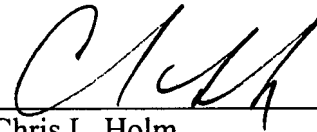
Independent claim 55 recites a control method for the supplier device recited in independent claim 49 and has been now amended in the manner similar to the amended independent claim 49.

In view of the foregoing, the cited references of *Stefik*, *Kageyama* and *Rager*, even when each taken alone or in combination, do not teach the present invention recited in each of the amended independent claims 49 and 55.

III. Request for Reconsideration

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims of this application are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration of the rejection and allowance is requested. If a conference would assist in placing this application in better condition for allowance, the undersigned would appreciate a telephone call at the number indicated.

Respectfully submitted,
Milbank, Tweed, Hadley & McCloy LLP



Chris L. Holm
Reg. No.: 39,227

July 31, 2007

Milbank Tweed Hadley & McCloy LLP
1 Chase Manhattan Plaza
New York, NY 10005
(212) 530-5000 / (212) 530-5219 (facsimile)